

Lesson 2: Coral Reef Threats

Grades: K-2

Activity: Coral Reef Role Play

Lesson Objectives

- Recognize how the coral reef ecosystem and its inhabitants work together to survive.
- Describe threats coral reefs face
- Identify ways they can reduce these threats.

Vocabulary

Marine debris = litter or human created waste that is released into the ocean

Pollution = harmful things that are released into an environment

Ocean acidification = a chemical reaction in the ocean that makes it difficult for coral and other species to survive

Coral bleaching = when ocean temperatures rise, algae (zooxanthellae) leave the corals, causing corals to lose their color and turn white

Can you think of some ways a coral reef helps the animals who call it their home?



Harmful thing to coral reefs are:

- Physical damage
- Marine debris
- Pollution
- Overfishing
- Coral bleaching
- Ocean acidification



Let's look at some coral reef threats!



Coral Reef Role Play

Activity!



How can we help our coral reefs?



- Conserve water
- Turn off the lights
- Hands to ourselves!
- Marine debris crusader!
- Volunteer at beach cleanups
- Sustainable seafood
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Talk to family and friends